

ART III.—*First Record of a Beaked Whale (Mesoplodon greyi) from Victoria.*

By C. W. BRAZENOR,

(National Museum of Victoria).

(With Plate VI.)

[Read 14th April, 1932; issued separately 28th February, 1933.]

The skull which is the subject of this paper was presented in June of last year to the National Museum by Miss Elva Battersby, who found it on the beach near Cape Schanck. Miss Battersby was impressed with the peculiarity of its long rostrum, and sought information from the Museum regarding its identity. It proved to be the skull of *Mesoplodon greyi* Haast, of which there is no previous record for Victoria. The lower mandible is missing, and the skull is fully macerated and bleached by sea water.

Miss Battersby undertook to watch the beach for any further bones, and three weeks later sent in two caudal vertebrae which undoubtedly belong to the same animal. The fact that parts from the opposite extremes were found suggests that the carcass disintegrated at no great distance from the shore.

This species of the genus *Mesoplodon* is characterised by having a number of vestigial teeth (up to 19 on each side) embedded in the gum of the upper jaw. About twenty-five specimens have been taken in the New Zealand region, and one example is recorded from Patagonia. Ogilby (1) lists it as from New South Wales, and a right mandibular ramus is recorded by Waite (2) as having been picked up on the beach at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island.

Mesoplodon greyi Haast, *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, 1876, p. 7; Flower, *Trans. Zool. Soc.*, 1878, p. 417; Forbes, *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, 1893, p. 216.

Mesoplodon hectori (not Grey) Hector, *Trans. New Zeal. Inst.*, vi, p. 86.

Berardius hectori (not Grey) Hector, *ibid.*, vii, p. 622.

Oulodon greyi Haast, *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, 1876, p. 457; *Trans. New Zeal. Inst.*, ix, p. 450; Van Ben. and Gervaise, *Osteogr. Oct.*, 1880, p. 516.

Mesoplodon haasti Flower, *Trans. Zool. Soc.*, 1887, p. 419.

Mesoplodon australis Flower, *Trans. Zool. Soc.*, 1878, p. 419; Lillie, *Terra Nova Expedn.*, *Zool.*, vol. 1, p. 119.

Mesoplodon kneri (skull B) Hector, *Trans. New Zeal. Inst.*, v., p. 167.

The present skull is that of a young individual, which appears to be of about the same age as that figured by Flower as *M. australis* (*supra cit.*). The vomerine trough is empty and quite smooth, and the mesethmoid bone barely enters the posterior end

of the groove. The maxillaries are broad, and reach to within 95 mm. of the apex of the rostrum. They form an upper flange to the posterior end of the basi-rostral groove, the blind pit of which measures 26 mm. in depth. The palatines lie on the outside of the pterygoids, and are approximately equal to them in length. The pterygoids, therefore, articulate directly with the maxillaries.

Dimensions of skull.

	mm.
Extreme length of cranium - - - -	679
Length of rostrum from apex of premax. to middle of line drawn between anti-orbital notches - -	438
From middle of hinder edge of palate (formed by pterygoids) to apex of rostrum - - -	540
Greatest height of cranium from vertex to pterygoids	240
Breadth of cranium between zygomatic processes of squamosals - - - -	241
Breadth of cranium between anti-orbital notches -	164
Breadth of middle of rostrum - - - -	37
Breadth of occipital condyles - - - -	94
Premaxillae, greatest width behind anterior nares -	115
„ least width opposite anterior nares -	95
„ greatest width in front of anterior nares	100
Width through maxillary foramina - - - -	139
Width of narrowest part of crest - - - -	31
From crest of occipital to anterior end of premaxillary crest - - - -	66
Width of anterior nares - - - -	43
Length of tympanic bone - - - -	49
Depth of tympanic bone - - - -	33

The two vertebrae are without epiphyses, and would appear to be the fifth and eighth of the caudal series. They agree perfectly with published descriptions and figures.

Bibliography.

1. OGILBY. *Aust. Mus. Cat.*, No. 16, Aust. Mamm., 1892, p. 72.
2. WAITE. *Rec. Stn. Aust. Mus.*, ii, p. 213.